



NEWSLETTER #4

May 2013

Update

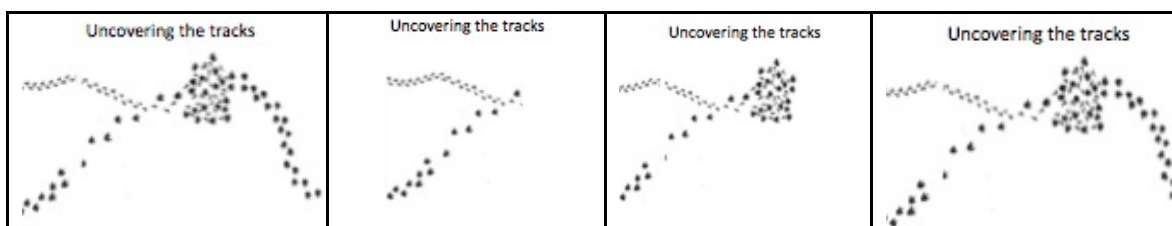
Another great session as we explored our collaborative inquiry question and analyzed our data. We were very happy to see the variety of student work samples shared and are impressed with the quality of data collected. The conversations that filled the room during the day were deep and rich with experience and helped us gain a deeper understanding of our practice. Well done!

Learning Goals for the Day

1. Work collaboratively to understand how analyzing student data can provide insights into improving your practice
2. Reflect on student learning and identify educator learning in collaboration with others
3. Begin to organize and write to share your inquiry experience at our next session
4. Expand your repertoire of science demos and activities for use in the intermediate classroom

Considering the Options

Our icebreaker activity called "Uncovering the Tracks" reminded us there is more than one way to interpret a situation and our data.



Air Pressure Demo

Put a clear piece of hard plastic on top of a cup full of water and invert. Your kids will be surprised at the pressure of air pressure!

Thanks to Ivanka for the pic.



The Collaborative Inquiry Question

We took everyone's question and created a Wordle with your words. An interesting way to reflect the thinking and explorations of the group.



Guidelines for Looking at Student Work

When working with student work, consider these points.

- Look for patterns/trends providing clues to how and what the student was thinking
- Look openly and broadly
- What was interesting, surprising ...
- Avoid judging (avoid using ... because... therefore...it seems...however...)
- Separate observation from inference
- Stay focused on the evidence



Analyzing Student Work – A Process Protocol

Teachers commented in conversation and on the exit cards that they found the process protocol we used to examine the student work in our session was helpful in digging deeper and promoting rich conversation. We offer it here again for future use.

1. Introduction to the context of the task

- ¥ Identify the purpose, focus and goal of the task
- ¥ Provide information on the teaching & learning situation
- ¥ Place student work samples on the table for initial viewing
- ¥ Identify the success criteria for the task
- ¥ **Ask clarifying questions**

2. Group Feedback

- ¥ What do you notice?
- ¥ What do you wonder?
- ¥ What do you have questions about?
- ¥ What do you think the student was working on?

3. Examining student work up close

- ¥ **Content:** understanding of concepts, skills, misconceptions...
- ¥ **Students:** characteristics that influence performance, i.e. learning styles, interests
- ¥ **Pedagogy:** effectiveness of instructional strategies, what has worked in the past
- ¥ **Assessment:** for/as/of learning ... did this task provide information about student understanding
- ¥ **Learning Environment:** conditions that may have affected performance, i.e. time of day

4. Individual QuickWrite

- ¥ Did you gain a new perspective on the work as a result of conversation with colleagues?
- ¥ Are there things you would like to try in class as a result of looking at this student work?
- ¥ What implications for instruction and assessment do these student work samples suggest?

5. Debrief

- ¥ Share summarized learnings/quickwrite & reflections



Next Steps: May 31, 2013 A Celebration

Friday, May 31st
@ Mississauga Convention Centre
75 Derry Rd, Mississauga, Ont.

Sign-up on "Pdplace"

Use code 96 (GAINS) for supply coverage

Bring:

Your write up of your inquiry
A display of artefacts ... from your
work in the classroom

Don't forget oven mitts/goggles/tongs and a digital copy of your work

Exit Cards - Defining Collaborative Inquiry

What activities helped you better understand collaborative inquiry?

"I enjoyed speaking about my inquiry and listening to others' process. I strongly feel that conversation is key to the self evaluative process. Thank you for the opportunity to dialogue."

"Having a chance to dialogue with someone outside of the inquiry to provide further comments, ideas, thoughts."

"Looking at data collected by other teachers and analyzing student data with insight from other teachers."

Final Thoughts ...

Once again, thanks for a great session #4. Both of us had a great time and always come away recharged and amazed at the effort and excitement that is generated by the group. Really looking forward to celebrating the hard work you've done this year.

Sandra and Lionel